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The Hongkong Telegraph

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March 18, 1918. Temperature 6 a.m. 62 2 p.m. 68
Humidity 95 75

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Humidity 69 73

7894 日六初月二

MONDAY, MARCH 18, 1918.

一拜禮 號八十月三英港香

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REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

RUSSO-GERMAN PEACE.

The Treaty Now Ratified.

London, March 17.
Reuter's correspondent at Petrograd says that the Peace Treaty was ratified at midnight on March 15, after an open vote.
Harr Steinberg, the Commissary of Justice, announced that the Left Social Revolutionaries refused responsibility and reserved the right to hinder the fulfilment of the terms of the Treaty by all the means in their power.

ITALIAN PEACE RUMOURS.

Authors and Disseminators to be Prosecuted.

London, March 17.
Reuter's correspondent at Rome says the Ministry of the Interior has ordered an investigation into the origin of the rumours of an early peace, which are current in Italy, as well as the prosecution of the authors and disseminators.

SPANISH UNREST.

Telegraph Under Military Control.

London, March 17.
A Madrid message says a Decree places the telegraph offices under military control, while the dispatch of telegrams is temporarily suspended. The measure is the result of the resistance by employees to the Decree dissolving the Unions in Government offices. A similar step is threatened in regard to the Post Office, whose employees have protested against the order depriving them of immunity from summary dismissal.

JAPANESE INTERVENTION IN RUSSIA.

The Danger of Inaction.

London, March 15.
Continuing his speech in the House of Commons on the Russo-Japanese situation, Mr. Balfour said people had come to say that the disorder in Russia was intolerable, that any alternative giving a semblance of order would be better and that Germany was waiting for such an eventuality and would intervene and establish a new Government—possibly some form of autocracy which would be far worse than in the pre-revolutionary days because it would be an autocracy leaning upon a foreign Power for its existence. Russian liberty would then be gone and Russia would be a nation without a Central Power. The question was, could any of the Allies go to Russia with the help and sympathy which were sorely needed? America, Britain, France and Japan all desired to render aid enabling Russia to surmount a great crisis in her destiny. Mr. Balfour most strongly repudiated the suggestion that Japan was motivated by selfish and dishonourable motives, and said any promise Japan gave as regards the integrity of Russia would be kept as loyally as all her promises had been kept. The sole object of the Allies was to see Russia strong, intact, secure and free, for only then will the Revolution bear all the fruits which its friends desire.

THE WESTERN FRONT.

British Airmen Have a Busy Time.

London, March 17.
Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, reporting on aviation, says:—There was reconnaissance, artillery work, photograph, bombing and a great deal of air fighting to the east of the lines on the whole front yesterday. Over twelve tons of bombs were dropped on rest billets, ammunition depots and aerodromes, while a successful raid was carried out on important railway sidings at Hiron, his being obtained on the railway. We brought down twelve machines and drove down seven others out of control. None of ours is missing. Our night fliers continued their activity until the morning, dropping over eight and a half tons on rest billets. All returned.

Mutual Raiding.

London, March 17.
Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—We carried out successful raids in the neighbourhood of Epeby and Gavrelle. We repulsed a raid to the north of Lens. There is hostile artillery firing to the south of the Bapaume Cambrai road, in the Scarpe Valley and to the east of Polygon Wood, also against our rear defences to the south of Lens, between the La Bassée canal and the Lys. It is most active to the south-west of Cambrai and along the whole front from the La Bassée canal to the Menin road.

FINNISH BUTTER FOR GERMANY.

London, March 17.
Reuter's correspondent at Stockholm states that the Finnish Food Committee has rationed butter with a view to exporting the surplus to Germany in exchange for oats.

AMERICA'S SUPPLIES OF WHEAT AND FLOUR.

London, March 17.
According to a message from Washington, the Department of Agriculture estimates that the wheat holdings at mills and elevators are 68,972,000 bushels, a decrease of 20,000,000 bushels compared with last year.

The Food Administration declares that the flour stocks are only thirty per cent. of the normal quantity needed till July 1, but that it intends to carry out the programme of supplying 80,000,000 bushels of grain to the Allies between January 1 and July 1, which is regarded as America's most important duty.

JAPAN AND CHINA.

London, March 18.
According to Reuter's correspondent at Tokyo, replying to the Leader of the Opposition, the Premier stated that no relations existed between Japan and Chang Tso-ling, the Military Governor of Mukden. The Premier said he was aware that Japan or any other of the Powers had protested against the conveyance of Chang Tso-ling's troops over the Peking-Mukden Railway, in contravention of the Boxer Treaty, but he added that the dissemination and disputes between Northern and Southern China constituted serious concern for the interests of Japan, who, however, had not attempted to mediate. The report of the despatch of a small body of Entente troops to Siberia was without foundation.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

BRITISH RAID IN GERMANY.

Successful Attack on Military Objectives.

London, March 17.
Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—Aeroplane to-day attacked military objectives in Germany, dropping fourteen heavy and ten light bombs on barracks, munition factories and the railway station at Zwickau.
Barracks were seen on the barracks and all round the railway station. Our formation was attacked by enemy and anti-aircraft guns, but all returned.

RUMANIA AND PEACE.

London, March 17.
According to Reuter's correspondent at Amsterdam, a message from Bucharest says that Marghiloman (sic), interviewed, said the sooner Rumania concluded peace the better would be her position.

EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSIAN SITUATION.

Germans Still Advancing.

London, March 15.
A German official message reports: We dispersed enemy bands in Ukraine. We are occupying Bismutsk.

Dissension from the Caucasus.

Petrograd, March 15.
In order to strengthen her strategic position Germany has demanded the establishment of a new line seven miles east of the present Russian positions on the Pskov front. The Caucasus Government has refused to recognise the Brest-Litovsk treaty providing for the cession to Turkey of the regions of Kars, Baum and Ardahan. A delegation has gone to Tiflis to negotiate a peace with Turkey.

Germans Aim at Domination.

Amsterdam, March 15.
The Russo-Ukrainian peace negotiations are about to begin at Kiev.
Besides demanding the withdrawal of the Russians from the Pskov region the Germans have insisted on the Russians helping to destroy bonds and in burning and pillaging. It is reported that the German commander in chief has been appointed commandant at Odessa. There were anti-Jewish riots at Odessa before its occupation. The Germans announce that, after ratification of the peace treaty, German commissions with the right of veto will be appointed to the Russian ministries to control the fulfilment of the treaty.

Opposition to the Peace Treaty.

Petrograd, March 15.
The Congress of Soviets at Moscow opened on the 14th inst. and included 733 Maximilianist and 238 Revolutionary Socialist delegates.
Messages from Petrograd indicate that there is a strong undercurrent of opposition to the ratification of the peace treaty. The Social Revolutionaries of the Left and the Council of People's Commissioners have resolved to resign if the Moscow Congress ratifies it. The Commissary of Justice publicly counsels the rejection of the treaty and says that the Congress must form a necessary Government of revolutionary defence.

Position in the Aalands.

Stockholm, March 15.
It is officially stated that the Swedish detachment despatched to superintend the Russian evacuation of the Aalands has begun to withdraw, but the withdrawal in no wise prejudices the Swedish position regarding political questions connected with the Aalands.

THE SITUATION IN SIBERIA.

Japanese Casualties.

London, March 16.
The "Daily Mail's" Tientsin correspondent states that the Japanese Embassy at Peking has been informed that three Japanese have been killed and seven wounded in defending property against Bolsheviks at Blagovestchensk recently. Chinese troops are busily entrenching on the Siberian-Manchurian frontier. The "Times" Tokyo correspondent says: In the absence of any official pronouncement here the reports from America and from England that Japanese intervention in Siberia has been virtually decided are mystifying and absolutely in conflict with local news. The minority press and public advocate an expedition but the powerful commercial elements which are wholly opposed to intervention are now generally supported and exchanges have stiffened in consequence of the belief in non-intervention.

Exchange of Views Incomplete.

Tokyo, March 16.
In the House of Representatives the Premier stated that the exchange of views between the Entente Governments concerning the dispatch of troops to Siberia had not yet reached finality.

A newspaper reports that Maximilians have murdered 150 Japanese at Blagovestchensk.

GERMANY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

Amsterdam, March 15.
Herr Solf, speaking at Cologne, emphasised that any peace to be lasting must satisfy Germany's colonial necessities. He favoured a re-distribution of colonial possessions in order to give Germany a far larger share than before the war "when her colonies were small and scattered."

ALLIED AIR RAIDS ON GERMANY.

Amsterdam, March 15.
A Berlin telegram states that there were twenty-three Allied air-raids on Germany in February, including thirteen on industrial districts in Lorraine, Luxembourg and Saar Moselle, three on Treves and one each on Saarbrücken, Mannheim and Pirmasens. The damage to Louvain was not inconsiderable. Twelve were killed and 27 injured. An enemy biplane was captured.

EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

DUTCH SHIPPING QUESTION.

Austro-German Anger.

London, March 15.
The Austro-German press are most indignant at the Allies taking over the Dutch shipping.
The "Neue Freie Presse" characterises it as an unprecedented act of violence against a neutral.
The German press demands drastic reprisals and threatens to cease the supply to Holland of coal and other necessities.

Lord Robert Cecil in an interview lays stress on the fact that the contemplated taking over of Dutch ships is based on the Allies' sole desire to obviate the laying up of shipping which may be useful for the world at large. He points out that these ships are lying indefinitely in our harbours and receiving various consequent facilities. All nations ought to combine to oppose the German attempt to starve not only Germany's enemies but the world. The total Dutch tonnage in Allied ports approximately a million tons of which seventy per cent is in the United States and fifteen per cent in each of the British and other Allied ports.

A Report from Singapore.

The Hague, March 13.
The Dutch Consul General at Singapore reports that clearance has been refused various ships, including those of the Royal Packet Company. The Foreign Minister, through the Dutch Minister in London, has asked the British Government for information thereon.

THE WESTERN FRONT.

Numerous Reports of Activity.

London, March 15.
A French communique reports: A fairly violent artillery duel prevails especially on the right of the Telle, in the regions of Bezonvaux and Vichereville. We dispersed an enemy raid following a lively bombardment west of Merville, in Lorraine.

A wireless German official message says: A French attack on a wide front only got a foothold in trenches westward of the Thunz-Nauroy road.

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports: The Canadians raided south-eastward of Lens and brought back prisoners. A large party of the enemy who undertook last night's raid on Paschendale suffered heavily from our artillery and from British machine-guns. The enemy was driven back to the starting point of the raid. A German raid on the Merquem was stopped by our barrage. The enemy is using quantities of gas shells and we replied similarly. Serious bombing encounters occurred in the regions of Nieuport and Dixmude.

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, reporting on aviation states: We bombed a railroad near Lille and aerodromes north-eastward and eastwards of St. Quentin. One of the latter's hangars was set afire and two badly damaged. All our machines returned.

Raid by Welsh Troops.

London, March 16.
Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports: Welsh troops in a successful raid in the neighbourhood of Armentieres prisoners fifteen and captured two machine guns. There has been hostile artillery firing south-eastward of Ypres, in the neighbourhood of the Menin road and southward of Houthulst forest.

We made a successful raid north-westward of La Vaque. There has been hostile artillery firing south-west of Cambrai, in the neighbourhood of the Scarpe river, northward of Lens, on both sides of the La Bassée canal and in Messines sector. Our artillery set on fire a large dump eastward of Quent.

A Paris communique says there has been lively artillery firing on the right of the Meuse.

COLLISION IN IRISH CHANNEL.

London, March 15.
The London and North-western steamer Rathmore collided with a warship in the Irish Channel. The Rathmore was badly damaged. Twenty-six people are missing and 20 are injured.

The London and North-Western Railway says there were no fatalities on the Rathmore. A telegram from Dublin says that possibly four persons perished. The Rathmore was carrying 600 soldiers and 33 civilians, including women and children, when she collided with a mine-sweeper in the darkness. The boats were lowered and one captured but the occupants were rescued. The soldiers and crew were most cool and slid down ropes into the destroyers. The Rathmore and mine-sweeper were towed in.

MORE GERMAN BOASTING.

Amsterdam, March 16.
Marshal Hindenburg and General Ludendorff, interviewed on the military situation, said that having burst the stranglehold they could now concentrate towards the west. "We can now think of attacking. If it comes it will be a hard task. Possibly the enemy on the Franco-British front at no has an abundance of reserve divisions and possesses a well consolidated network of railways, but it is moral strength that matters. We are entirely confident that the battle which is bursting will be successful for us. The centre-point is the good spirit of the German soldiers. We are convinced that this spirit is flourishing everywhere in the homeland."

MUNITIONS EXPLOSION IN FRANCE.

Paris, March 16.
Two big explosions, heard in Paris, occurred in the Courneuve district. Sixteen dead have been counted and there are many injured.

Many Casualties.
Paris, March 16.
There were thirty dead and many injured in an explosion at the munitions depot at St. Denis (which was built to replace the Dair Condemned depot blown up in 1915). Few were working at the time of the explosion which was most violent and felt for a great distance. A pall of smoke hung over north Paris.

WEATHER FORECAST.

RAIN.

TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Service by The Telegraph.)

THE SILVER MARKET.

London, March 17.
The silver market is steady with small supplies.
London, March 18.
The silver market is steady.

RETURN OF SIR G. BUCHANAN.

Sincere Friendship for Russia.

On account of a somewhat serious breakdown in health, the British Ambassador at Petrograd, Sir George Buchanan, has been granted leave of absence to return home.

Sir George Buchanan was appointed Ambassador to Petrograd (then St. Petersburg) on November 23, 1910. He has thus held the post for more than seven years. The last four years he has spent uninterruptedly in Russia, and has neither asked for nor received leave of absence since the war began. Though by no means strong physically, he has cheerfully sacrificed himself to his extremely arduous duty, and has become, by his firmness of character and transparent honesty of purpose, the foremost figure in the British diplomatic service.

Unlike many diplomats, who regard it as their chief object to be persona grata with the Sovereign or Heads of States to in view what is convenient to the true welfare of Russia and the maintenance of close and friendly understanding and co-operation between Russia, Great Britain, and their Allies. Thus, when it became clear that the reactionary policy pursued by the late Emperor and his advisers was leading the country towards an internal crisis, the British Ambassador sought repeatedly to convince the Tsar of the expediency of sincere constitutional and democratic reform. He met with more than one rebuff, but nevertheless persevered in the hope of avoiding the revolutionary upheaval which the attitude of the Court eventually rendered inevitable.

Upon the abdication of the Tsar he played the part of a counsellor and friend to the Provisional Government, and sought by every means in his power to exert a steady influence upon events. He gradually became the outstanding representative of the Western Allies in Russia and worked for the Alliance and for Russia with unremitting zeal. If German intrigue, and visionary ingenuities on the part of mad revolutionary leaders, combined to frustrate his efforts, his record, nevertheless remains as a monument of permanent good faith and good will such as few diplomats have left behind them. A more difficult (not to say dangerous) and delicate task has rarely, if ever, fallen to a British Ambassador; and rarely has a British diplomat addressed himself to his task with greater straightforwardness, openness of mind, and freedom from pedantic preconceptions.

DON'T FORGET.

TO-DAY.
St. John's Cathedral, B. opening of organ, 9.15 p.m.
Victoria Theatre—9.15 p.m.
Bijou Theatre—9.15 p.m.
New Hongkong Cinema—9.15 p.m.

TO-MORROW.
City Hall—Concert by Professor Papani, 9.15 p.m.
Victoria Theatre—9.15 p.m.
Bijou Theatre—9.15 p.m.
New Hongkong Cinema—9.15 p.m.

GENERAL NEWS.

Pridess and Munition Girls.
Princess Victoria recently attended an entertainment to 200 wounded soldiers organised by the munition girls living at the Joan of Arc Hotel, Plumstead, and travelled in a heraldic figure which has been placed in the hall. A small replica was subsequently presented to her.

Saved by Seagulls.
A pilot who landed at a South-east Coast port recently said that while in the Channel he noticed some seagulls sitting upon a floating object. Upon closer investigation he saw it was a mine with five prongs. On each prong was perched a seagull. He just had time to alter the ship's course slightly, and thus averted disaster.

High Profits of Brewers.
At the Quarter Session for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight recently the Court considered the submission of the Licensed Victuallers' Defence League of England and Wales that compensation charges on the trade should be entirely suspended on the ground of the restrictions placed upon traders. The Duke of Wellington moved that half the maximum levy (as last year) be imposed stating that, in spite of the fact of restrictions placed upon the sale of liquor, the brewing interest was doing well. This resolution was carried.

Teachers' Service.
At the resumed annual Conference of Educational Associations at University College recently, Professor John Adams, addressing the Schools' Personal Service Association, said a large number of his friends in the teaching profession were now doing public service in Government offices and munition works. Without exception, they said how easy the work was compared with teaching. So far as fatigue was concerned, they would rather work ten hours a day in an office or in munition work than three hours in school. Mrs. Patrick Campbell's Loss.
Mrs. Patrick Campbell has received news of the death of her son, Acting Lieut. Commander Alan U. Campbell, who was killed in action on Dec. 30. He had been fighting for over two years with the Royal Naval Division, and was mentioned in dispatches for good work at the Dardanelles. He received the Croix de Guerre with palm, from the French, after the evacuation of Gallipoli. Since his arrival in France he had gained the Military Cross and a bar to it for work in the Battle of the Ancre. He was instrumental on one occasion in taking 400 prisoners.

A Bogus Hero.
Geo. Wm. Owen, now undergoing 12 months' imprisonment for theft at Manchester, was at the Westminster Police Court recently sentenced to two months' hard labour for robbing the poor-box at the court, with other thefts, and also for forging military papers. It was stated the prisoner had described himself as the "Honourable George Irwin," and had been wearing the Military Cross and other decorations to which he was not entitled. He had also forged cheques which he had, it was alleged, stolen from the house of an officer whose guest he had been.

Vienna Pork Riot.
The Arbeiter Zeitung reports the outbreak of serious food riots in Vienna on New Year's Day. The announcement that 40,000 pounds weight of Serbian pork would be sold in the great market at 3s. per lb. attracted immense crowds, estimated at fully 20,000 persons, hundreds of whom had waited in the streets all through the night in the bitter cold with the temperature below zero. In the early morning the crowd, becoming impatient, overpowered the police and forced an entry to the market, literally fighting their way to get at the meat. Many persons were seriously injured, and the available supplies were soon sold out. The majority of the people, however, were forced to go meatless away. Noisy demonstrations then took place in the streets, the crowd vehemently denouncing the municipal authorities and the Imperial Government. Owing to the lack of bread thousands of sailors and seamen in Vienna have been forced to close their shops. There are now 40,000 workers out of employment.

NOTICES.

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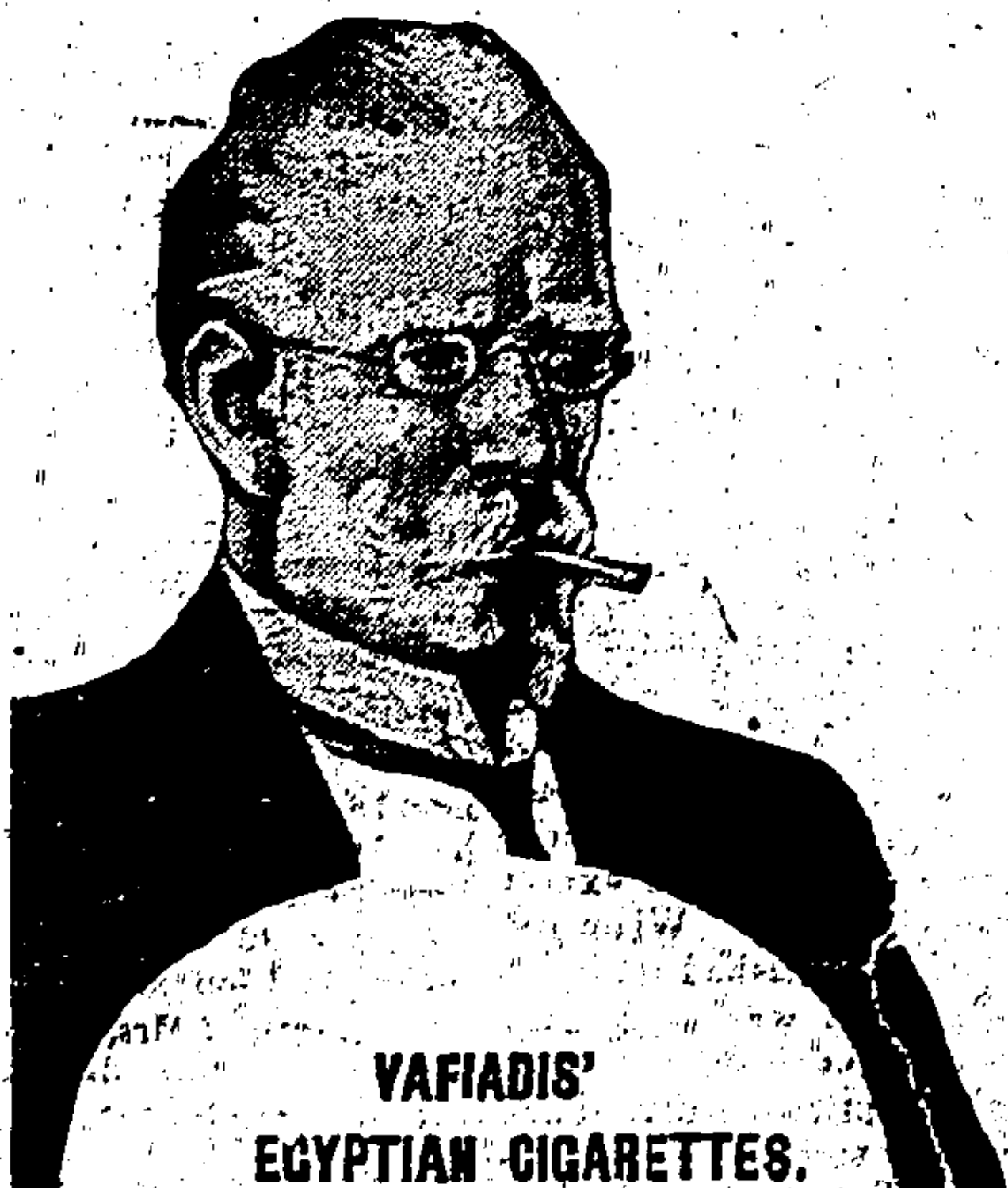
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Crown Prince	100	4.65
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" "	10	.50
Extra Fine (Grand Format)	50	2.35
Nectar	50	2.35
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" "	20	.75
Superfine	100	2.40
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Hongkong, 15th January, 1917.

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winners, also Cash Sweep tick-
et holders of following Races
can obtain a refund on pro-
duction of their ticket at the
Office of the Hongkong Jockey
Club, on the Ground Floor of
the HONGKONG CLUB
ANNEXE, Chater Road, be-
tween the hours of 3.30 P.M.
and 5.30 P.M. on MONDAY,
4th March, 1918, until 29th
March (SATURDAYS and
SUNDAYS excepted).

HOLDERS OF UNPAID WIN-
NING TICKETS (Cash Sweeps,
Places and Winners) will also
be paid at the same place and
between the same hours as
stated above on production of
tickets.

LOWE, EINGHAM

& MATTHEWS.

Accountants to the Hongkong
Jockey Club.
Hongkong, 28th February, 1918.

NOTICE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that the Firm of A. R.
Marty, Rene Salle Successor,
has from the 12th February, 1918,
sold to Messrs. P. A. Lapieque
& Co., the s.s. "Hanoi" which
insures the Postal Service be-
tween Hongkong and Haiphong,
and also the right to use the
name of A. R. Marty, Compagnie
de Navigation Tonkinoise.
The business will hereafter be
carried on by Messrs. P. A.
Lapieque & Co., 4, Queen's
Building, Telephone No. 950.
P. A. Lapieque & Co.
Maison A. R. Marty,
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Hongkong, 3rd March 1918.

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that the Ordinary Yearly
Meeting of Shareholders will be
held in the Office of the Comptroller,
2, Queen's Buildings, Hongkong,
on MONDAY 25th March, 1918,
at 12th noon, for consideration
of the Directors' Report and
Statement of Accounts for the
year ending 31st December,
1917.

The SHARE REGISTER and
TRANSFER BOOKS will be
closed from the 18th to the 25th
inst. both days inclusive.
By Order of the Board of
Directors, R. M. DYER,
Secretary.



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All communications intended for publication should be addressed to the Editor.

Business correspondence should be sent to the Manager.

Cable Address: Telegraph, Hongkong.

Telephone: No. 1 A.B.C., 5th edition. Western Union Office address: 11, Ice House St.

BIRTH.

SCOTT.—On March 18th, to Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Scott, a son.

DEATH.

GIBSON.—On the 16th inst, Jeannie Mackay beloved wife of Dr. R. Maclean Gibson, of the London Missionary Society.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

Dr. Gibson gratefully acknowledges the numerous expressions of sympathy and floral tributes received in his recent sad bereavement.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, MONDAY, MARCH 18, 1918.

THE ALLIES AND DUTCH SHIPPING.

Certain absurd rumours which have been circulated in the Colony during the past week or so as regards the relations between Britain and Holland have been laid at rest by the announcements which came to hand on Saturday of the right which the Allies intend to exercise by taking over, for the duration of the war, Dutch shipping lying in Allied ports. It is well-known that negotiations have been proceeding for some considerable time between the Allies and Holland aiming at an understanding whereby the Entente would be able to make use of Dutch shipping in exchange for food supplies, and that there appeared every prospect of the desired end being attained. Such a plan would be to the mutual advantage of both parties, but it is now revealed that German threats and actions have stood in the way of its being carried into effect. That being the case, the Allies have now deemed it expedient to resort to other methods leading to the same result. In this resolve they are acting in accordance with international law and can quote precedents for the stand they take, while at the same time going no further than Holland herself proposed until Germany stood in the way of a voluntary agreement being reached.

If we look at the matter dispassionately, we shall see that the Allies are animated by a spirit of characteristic fairness and that there is none of that attitude of dominance associated with the proposal such as we should expect from Germany if in a similar position. It is no question of seizing Dutch vessels unconditionally, but of utilising them for the period of the war to the mutual advantage of Holland and the Entente nations. The ships are to be insured, good freights are to be paid and steps will be taken to replace any which happen to be sunk in the danger zone, as soon as possible after the declaration of peace. A point to be borne in mind is that we are not presuming to do to Holland what has not been done to us, for it is appropriately recalled that in 1871 Germany destroyed a number of British vessels on the Seine and subsequently paid compensation therefor. The resolve of the Allies necessarily causes considerable dislocation of Dutch shipping activity, but a situation has been reached in which private interests must be subordinated to larger claims. And if the matter is looked at in that light we are sure that the benefits of the decision will be self-apparent. What must not be forgotten is that the exercise of this right is necessitated by Germany's methods of bullying terrorism. It is now proved that Germany has been using her submarines to prevent adjacent neutral nations from receiving food from the Allies, with a view to starving these nations into political and economic dependence on Germany, and that all manner of threats have been held out to Holland and Scandinavia in order to prevent the conclusion of agreements which they desire to enter into with the Allied nations. With the facts thus, the action of the Entente automatically brings relief to an awkward situation; so far as the neutral nations are concerned, inasmuch as the Allies, and not the neutrals, must now bear the brunt of German resentment over the matter.

Another reason which may be quoted in justification for the Allied viewpoint is that the taking over of these vessels is necessitated owing to the extreme shortage of tonnage which has been caused through the enemy's ruthless submarine campaign, in which all the accepted laws of maritime warfare are studiously ignored. In this connection, neutral nations know to their cost that the Germans have not hesitated to sink, without warning, any prey that comes their way and that in these instances there is not the least intention of paying compensation. When we keep a point like that in mind and contrast the Allied proposal therewith, no question can arise as to who are the friends and who the enemies of neutral countries. All through the war, we have played the game by non-belligerence, and in taking this latest course necessitated by circumstances we are, in the conditions attaching to it, adhering to principles of justice and fair play.

Tennis Suggestions.

The suggestion put forward by a correspondent in our issue of Friday, that, in connection with the coming tennis tournaments, a Hong Doubles Championship should be arranged, certainly has much to commend it. At the same time, it should be pointed out that one of the events which figures in the Hongkong Cricket Club tournament is practically on all fours therewith. We refer to the Professional Pairs Competition, which is played off on a scratch basis and is eligible to pairs participating in the same business calling. If any amendments were to be made—and we are afraid it is a little late in the day now, seeing that the entries have closed—we should like to see this particular event replaced by a Doubles Championship open to the Colony, irrespective of the players' business sphere, which latter, after all, brings in quite an outside factor. We are glad to see that the general tendency is to make the principal tennis events more comprehensive, for that is a step in the right direction. The inclusion of mixed doubles was a happy move, while the recent institution of a ladies' singles championship, on the initiative of the L.R.C., was equally gratifying. But isn't it time a ladies' Doubles Championship were established?

Theatre Manners.

A correspondent wishes to air through our columns, in the hope that it will reach the eyes of those concerned, the unseemly behaviour of a little group of spectators at the Victoria Theatre on Friday night. He states that the offending persons comprised several who would no doubt like themselves to be regarded as gentlemen, as well as a member of the opposite sex, and that during the whole evening, by chattering, giggling and even adopting anything but a patriotic attitude when pictures of our war heroes were screened, were a continual source of annoyance to practically everyone in the dress circle. This is the sort of thing of which we have felt compelled to complain before, but this particular instance appears to have been about as bad a case as has ever been brought to our notice. The theatre manners of some individuals in this Colony are about as crude and objectionable as they could well be, and we can only express the hope that, one of these evenings, people who offend in this respect will undergo the humiliating experience of being summarily requested to leave the building in which they happen to be. People of this type are as much of a nuisance to the management of picture-houses as they are to those who have the misfortune to be anywhere near them.

The German Way.

Those who believed that the Germans were innocent of any intentions to interfere in the affairs of the inhabitants of the Aland Islands when they landed a force there, will have to revise their views, for a telegram to hand on Saturday showed that the Hun intruders had ordered the people to surrender all weapons and have also abolished the right of meeting. That is a rather drastic way of "baiting" to be sure, but it is only what one has learned to expect from the Germans. When the enemy force established itself on these islands it was announced that the sole intention was to set up a halting place in connection with the despatch of assistance to Finland. That was the German declaration. We know now what the German action has been. To those who have followed Germany's record in this war, the development will not come as a surprise, for it has been shown in abundant manner that the Huns are no respecters of the rights of others. They are thus carrying out their traditional policy. But what will the Scandinavian nations say about it, we wonder?

Ex-Lord Mayor's Will.

Alderman Sir Henry Edmund Knight, senior member of the Aldermanic Body of the City of London, Lord Mayor in 1882 and 1883, left £38,720.

DAY BY DAY.

WE TRAD UPON LIVES BROKEN LAWS AND MURMUR AT OURSELF INFLICTED PAIN.—W.H. G.

To-morrow's Anniversary. To-morrow is the anniversary of the birth of David Livingstone (1813).

The Dollar. The opening rate of the dollar on demand to-day was 3. C.H.

Stolen Clothes. A Chinese was charged before Mr. E. D. O. Wolfe, at the Police Court this morning, with the larceny of several pieces of clothing. The defendant said that he picked the clothes up in the street, but, after hearing the evidence, his Worship sentenced the man to fourteen days' hard labour.

Embezzlement Charge. The case in which Albert J. Edwards, the late accountant of the Government Civil Hospital, is charged with embezzling \$500, the money of the Government, was again before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Police Court this morning. His Worship fixed the case to come on again on Wednesday next at 2.15 p.m.

Hongkong Man Wounded. Friends of Second Lieut. H. J. White will regret to hear that the following telegram has been received locally from the War Office:—"Regret to inform you that H. J. White, 3rd Devonshire Regiment, was wounded, March 12th. Details sent if received." Mr. White was formerly on the staff of the Hongkong Hotel, and was only recently gazetted.

Concealed Opium.

There were two cases of opium possession before Mr. J. B. Wood, at the Police Court this morning, both the defendants being cooks on board a Canton steamer. In one case the man had 27½ taels and in the other 38 taels were found. The drug was concealed in the men's clothing. His Worship passed sentence of six months' and nine months' hard labour respectively.

A Clever Excuse.

For returning from banishment, a Chinese was excused by Mr. E. D. O. Wolfe, at the Magistrate's Court this morning, to nine months' hard labour and four hours' stock. The man, who was sent away for ten years in September last, stated that he came back because he had heard that his mother perished in the Raccoon disaster. He had only come to make enquiries.

Newspaper Seller Sentenced.

A man who said he earned his living by selling papers for the South China Morning Post, was charged before Mr. E. D. O. Wolfe this morning with picking a watch and chain from an old man's pocket in Des Voeux Road Central on Saturday. It was stated that the defendant stole the watch and chain and then passed it on to an accomplice before the police came up. Sentence of fourteen days' hard labour was passed.

Committed Five Burglaries.

In the early hours of yesterday morning, a Chinese, who has successfully entered No. 66, Temple Street, Yau-mai, and stolen property valued at \$71, was disturbed, and endeavoured to make his escape by the back door. The householder was aroused and chase was given, the burglar being caught. When searched at the Police Station, a number of pawn tickets were found upon the man, establishing the fact that he had committed four other burglaries during the past two months. All the property has been recovered. Mr. J. E. Wood sentenced the man this morning to six months' hard labour and four hours' stock.

Death of Mrs. Gibson.

It is with the deepest regret that we have to record the death from cerebro-spinal meningitis, of Mrs. Gibson, wife of Dr. Maclean Gibson, Superintendent and Secretary of the Aljos Memorial and Affiliated Hospitals, which took place on Saturday. The deceased lady was extremely well-known in the Colony, in which she had resided for some twenty years, having been married here, and she will be greatly missed by a large circle of European and Chinese friends. She has left behind her a record of splendid work in the interests of charity. The funeral took place on Saturday evening and the large gathering present was testimony to the deceased lady's popularity. The deepest sympathy of the whole community is felt for Dr. Gibson in the very sad bereavement.

ART OF BUILDING IN COUNTRIES SUBJECT TO EARTHQUAKES.

The value of ferro concrete.

(Concluded from Saturday)

In 1808 Monsieur G. Flament-Henri, engineer, in a paper read before the Society of Civil Engineers of France, indicated that the material required to resist earthquake shocks was Ferro Concrete. Other materials such as wood, masonry, or metal, only gave bad results, as much by their low resistance to seismic shocks as by their being easily destroyed by fire which usually follows a severe earthquake.

From the Report on the State of Buildings in Ferro Concrete after the disaster of Messina 1908, the following particulars gleaned on the spot by a French Engineer prove the perfect resistance of ferro concrete buildings, even those most disturbed.

1.—Covering of the Torrent Portogruaro remained intact notwithstanding the enormous quantity of material thrown over same.

2.—Floors of the Maison de Sainte Mandarine contributed by their ties to the walls to preserve the house in very good condition and the patients did not leave the hospital.

3.—Reservoir of 4,000 tons remained in good order and continued to supply water to the town.

4.—Messina Museum walls caved in, the ferro concrete floors fell with same but remained in one piece. One remained perfectly intact supported only by three walls.

5.—Water Mill, built of ferro concrete, intact.

6.—Floors of the Railway Electric Light Station did not suffer notwithstanding the heavy load supported owing to the upper parts of the building being thrown on it, and that it was in the part of the city most shaken up. The remainder of the building was wrecked.

7.—The Medical School hospital was completely destroyed with the exception of the reinforced concrete, the staircase having resisted amid the debris.

8.—House adjoining the Church de la Madeleine—the floors in reinforced concrete were intact, the Church in ruins.

9.—Waiting room in concrete remained intact, the building adjacent wrecked.

10.—Houses in reinforced concrete remained uninjured in a quarter where all other buildings were ruined, saving the lives of the occupants whilst their neighbours perished.

Following these statements, the Council of Engineers and Architects in Italy called an extraordinary meeting on the 1st January 1909 and nominated a commission under the president, Signor Luiggi, to study and decide on regulations for buildings to be constructed in regions subject to seismic disturbances. Their decisions appeared in No. 7 of the Annals of the Society, which concluded that reinforced concrete properly designed and well carried out should be adopted.

Approval of reinforced concrete buildings was expressed by the Geological Service of the U.S. after the San Francisco earthquake. Unfortunately for San Francisco there were very few of that type of building at the time of the disaster, but those existing resisted very well the shake and the fire resulting.

Concrete, principally the reinforced system, through its great resistance and tensile strength, has proved that it is the most satisfactory material. Its monolithic structure marvellously resists the shocks and being tied in one piece it offers the best security against fire.

It must be noted that the buildings above mentioned were not built with a view to resisting earthquake shocks.

This shows that without special precautions of any kind in construction such buildings by their nature resist the most violent shocks without deformation.

We may cite two typical examples of this extraordinary quality of reinforced concrete to resist the most violent shocks and differences of level.

The town of Saint-Pierre (Martinique) almost destroyed by the volcanic eruption of the 8th May 1902, was visited by a cyclone on the 8th August, 1903, which almost wiped out the last vestiges of buildings which remained standing. Only one building (Adam Express Co.) saving the walls which contained valuable papers and jewellery. Many other built by officers of the army at that time in the same city were destroyed. The Morris two kilometre north of Saint-Pierre was the only one of the town which remained standing.

Mount Pelée, resisted. This house sheltered during the cataclysm the observers who saw everything fall around them, notwithstanding that it was built under disadvantageous conditions of bad labour and quality of the material employed.

A second example will show the powers of resistance of a reinforced concrete building. In Tunisia, on the 22nd April, 1906 a flour mill, central building almost square and two wings, one 170' x 35' and the other 80' x 40' were affected by a general depression of the ground in such a very unequal form as to show an inclination which would recall the tower of Pisa. On one side the buildings sank 5 feet deep, giving thereby an incline of 16' feet with the perpendicular line without any damage to the flour-mill which was later on redressed in its former shape by the addition of another storey, the original ground floor being turned into an underground floor.

But there is another danger which we referred to above, viz., fire, for example the case of San Francisco where 85% of the damage resulted from that cause.

Against that danger also, we have the report of the geological service of the United States in favour of reinforced concrete.

We now give a few instances, very convincing because based on experimental facts, of the value of reinforced concrete.

On the 6th September 1898, at the Firemen's Congress in Belgium tests were made on a reinforced concrete building 18' x 19' consisting of a ground floor and a first and second floor.

First, the floor above the ground floor was loaded to 300 lbs. per square foot and underneath a pile of wood was placed and saturated with kerosene, and fire appeared. The fire remained burning for one hour after which it was extinguished by the fire service. After cooling down it was seen that the concrete was undamaged.

A second trial was made on the 28th September 1898 the same floor was loaded to 450 lbs. per square foot and the maximum bend was not over 1/16". The terrace was loaded 300 lbs. per square foot. Then two piles of fire wood were laid, one on the ground floor and one on the first floor which were lighted and burned for about two hours without any cracks becoming apparent. The heat was so great that a block of wood, 8' distant from a reinforced glass sheet which was closing the window took fire without any cracks becoming apparent in the reinforced glass sheet. The fire was put down and only the next day could the results be registered. No disorganization existed in the concrete, only in the plaster in direct contact with the fire (about four-fifths of an inch), but next morning no permanent deflection was apparent.

The pyrometers placed inside registered a temperature of 1200 centigrades. Captain Welsch of the Fire Brigade concludes that the results obtained proved that a division wall of reinforced concrete of 3' thick would be an impenetrable screen to any fire.

Other trials took place on the 14th and 20th of August 1900 in the tower of the barracks of the firemen, Lamark Road, Paris, and such trials confirm the above experiences. The temperature went up to 1,400 degrees inside whereas outside the temperature was not materially increased.

Many other proofs of the excellent quality of Ferro Concrete have been given by accidental fires which would otherwise have been disastrous.

In Geneva an Electric plant was almost destroyed by fire and the fire stopped at the concrete floor of the first floor. The Station was rebuilt in concrete.

The Van Haegarderen Cotton Mill (Belgia) took fire and the plant was entirely destroyed but the frame work, in concrete, was entirely preserved and the mill was rebuilt without any alteration.

An especially remarkable example was the fire in Baltimore on the 7th February 1904 which destroyed 1,600 buildings in 30 hours. In the centre of the quarter affected were three buildings in reinforced concrete:—The Hotel Junker, Fayette Street, which was dynamited to stop the progress of the fire, the building of the International Trust Company, Baltimore Street, in which the concrete floors resisted without damage the fall of the next building (Adam Express Co.) saving the walls which contained valuable papers and jewellery. Many other built by officers of the army at that time in the same city were destroyed. The Morris two kilometre north of Saint-Pierre was the only one of the town which remained standing.

buildings usually constructed in the United States and other countries, composed of a skeleton of iron profile W bars 14" high, and "braced" in concrete have proved themselves to be the most reliable. The buildings of which the frame work is of iron are capable of resisting normal weights and stresses but the concrete with which they are encased does not in any way increase their resistance, but merely adds weight and cost. The concrete buildings, on the other hand, are built with a view to resisting earthquake shocks and fire, and are the only ones which can be relied upon in such cases.

WAR COMFORTS.

City Hall War Party.

Mrs. Stubb writes us as follows:—During the last three weeks the City Hall War Party packed the following:—119 shirts, 10 surgical shirts, 15 cotton shirts, 268 pairs of pyjamas, 182 bed jackets, 160 vests, 35 dressing gowns, 1 quilt, 15 reversible bed-jackets, 481 dress bodices, 189 milk covers, 68 pairs of slippers, 37 abroads, 7 pairs of bed boots, 131 theatre squares, 12 face cloths, 4 pairs of socks, 13 small pillows, 25 large macquillo nets, 64 scrubbers, 6 pillow cases, 13 many-tailed bandages, 25 caps, 30 pairs of operation stockings. These were packed in five cases and sent to the Red Cross Depot in Bombay for distribution to Hospitals in India and Mesopotamia. The quilt in the above list is made from small squares of flannel left in cutting out garments; it is warm and light—the very thing for India, and the maker has the satisfaction of knowing that she has made something out of nothing.

Mention must be made of the Mothers' Union Branch of the City Hall War Party. With an average of twelve workers every week, they made 1,245 articles during 1917, with a specially creditable number of shirts and pyjamas. For January this year, they made 78 garments and in February reached the high total of 108. This all means a very steady attendance at the weekly meetings on Friday afternoons at the Helena May Institute, and the leaders and members may all be congratulated on what they have done to help on the comfort of our soldiers.

As we read in our Premier's speech to-day, the heavy burden is carried in the heart, not on the shoulders, but women know that the work of the hands can ease the burden of the heart, and happy is she who knows that her time and skill go towards sending ease and comfort to the men who truly are bearing the burden and heat of the day. We are told not to discourage or depress others—that the dawn is surely coming—so let us keep our eyes and minds on our work, that in the end we may have peace in our hearts, knowing that we have done what we could.

AMERICAN RED CROSS.

Enthusiasm of Hongkong Branch.

The Hongkong branch of the American Red Cross is completing its organisation quite successfully and it is understood that active work along some lines similar to those followed at work at the City Hall is being arranged for by the American women concerned.

There are 72 women members of the local branch at the present time, including 24 life members, 8 sustaining members, 12 contributing members, and 7 subscribing members, these various grades of membership being based upon varying membership fees. However, the work to be done is based upon contributing usually arranged for upon a monthly basis, and the organisation is arranging for monthly contributions from members and friends. Membership is not limited to Americans only, but is open to all men and women interested in the work of the American Red Cross. Membership imposes no special obligations, but is usually limited to those who are actually interested in such work.

Members of the Hongkong Chapter are quite enthusiastic as to the prospects of their organisation and expect to do very effective work.

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Tjipanas	Java	27th Mar.	1st Apr.	Saigon
Tjimanoeck	Java	29th Mar.	6th Apr.	Amoy & Shanghai

The steamers are all fitted throughout with electric light and
have accommodation for a limited number of saloon-passengers.
All steamers carry a duly qualified surgeon. Cargo taken
at through rates to all ports in Netherlands-India and Australia.

For particulars of Freight and Passage, apply to the

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DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP CO., LD.

HONGKONG & SOUTH CHINA COAST PORT SERVICE.

Regular Service of Fast, High Class Coast Steamers having
good accommodation for first Class Passengers, Electric Light and
Fans in state-rooms and Saloon and Excellent Cuisine.FOR SWATOW, AMOY AND FOOSHOW AND RETURN.
(Occupying 1 to 10 days.)

Steamships.	Captain	Leaving
Malayan	A. E. Hodgins	TUES., 19th Mar. at noon.
Malhong	J. W. Evans	FRI., 22nd Mar. at noon.

FOR SWATOW.
Arrivals and Departures from the Company's Wharf (near
Blake Pier).

For Freight and Passage, apply to

Douglas Lapraik & Co.,
General Managers.INDO-CHINA STEAM
NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

(Projected Sailings from Hongkong.—Subject to Alteration).

For	Steamship	On
SHANGHAI	Wingsang	Thur., 21st Mar. at d'light
SANDAKAN	Mausang	Thur., 21st Mar. at noon
HAIPHONG	Loksang	Fri., 22nd Mar. at 7 a.m.
MANILA	Loongsang	Fri., 22nd Mar. at 3 p.m.
TIENTSIN	Chipsang	Sun., 24th Mar. at d'light
MANILA	Tuensang	Fri., 29th Mar. at 3 p.m.

Returning from Calcutta—Steamers proceed to Kobe and Moji, thence calling at Shanghai.
These steamers have excellent passenger accommodation, are fitted with Electric Light and
carry a fully qualified surgeon. This line is temporarily discontinued owing to the war.SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG.—Sailings approximately every five days between Canton and Shanghai, sometimes
calling at Swatow. Steamers on this line have a limited amount of passenger accommo-
dation, and through tickets can be obtained for Northern and Yangtze Ports via Shanghai.
Through Bills of Lading are issued to all Northern and Yangtze Ports.MANILA LINE.—A weekly service is maintained with Manila by vessels with good passenger accom-
modation, sailings from both ports every Friday.HAIPHONG LINE.—Sailings approximately weekly for passengers and cargo, calling at other ports
intermediate.BORNEO LINE.—One sailing per month between Hongkong and Sandakan by a steamer having up-to-
date accommodation for passengers.CARGO TAKEN ON THROUGH BILLS OF LADING FOR KADAT, Jesselton, Labuan, Tawau and Lahad Datar.
TIENTSIN LINE.—A regular service is run from March to October between Hongkong and Tientsin
calling at Whampoa and Chefoo.Under Straits Government Passport Regulations.
All European Passengers, leaving the Colony for Straits Settle-
ment, are required to produce on arrival at destination passports
with their Photographs and description affixed thereto.

For Freight or passage, apply to

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LTD.
Telephone No. 215. General Managers.

AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY.

BANKERS.
FORWARDERS.
TOURIST AGENTS.AMERICAN EXPRESS TRAVELLERS CHECKS
the best form in which to carry money.

15, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, TEL. NO. 211.

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SHIPPING-NEWS.

Maiden Voyage.

The sailing vessel Houn Maru
No. 1, 348 tons, chartered by the
Fural Co., started on her maiden
voyage from Daifun to Kobe with
a full cargo of sesamum. She is
registered at Chemulpo and was
launched at Antung last Novem-
ber, having been rigged up at the
Kawasaki Dock.

South Wales Ship-Repairing.

The past year has been re-
markable for the vast amount of
ship-repairing work which has
been successfully carried through
in the South Wales district. The
Bristol Channel ship-repairing
trade has never been so actively
employed and in order to cope
with the vast amount of work
which was diverted to the district,
managerial capacity was fully
tested. Owing to regulations it
is not permitted to describe any
particular jobs, but it will suffice
to say that the capacity and skill
of all years has been tested to
the full by the varied and peculiar
jobs which have been carried out
in the district in record time.
This is likely to have a lasting
influence upon the future of the
district, and what can be accom-
plished in South Wales has been
strikingly demonstrated this year,
and constitutes a splendid
advertisement for the capacity
and skill of the various firms in
turning out with expedition jobs
the like of which have never been
undertaken in this district before.
On all sides it is admitted that
the South Wales district as far
as dockyarding and ship-repairing
is concerned, will be very actively
employed for two or three years
after the declaration of peace.
There is a vast amount of work
which has been deferred until a
more propitious period arrives.
The amount of re-classification
work will be enormous, while
practically all the vessels that
will need overhauling owing to
the intensified way they are being
worked at the present time. South
Wales will undoubtedly continue
to receive the bulk of the ship-
repairing work, inasmuch as the
North-East Coast will for some
years be actively engaged in ship
construction. The plant and
machinery in practically all the
firms has been kept fully up to
date, and time-saving appliances
have been generally introduced.
Works organisation has been
revolutionised so that the output
of the district for the years of
peace will be "upon a much higher
scale than was shown in pre-war
years. Furthermore, the combina-
tion of extensions which have
taken place during the war will
result in quickened despatch.
Competition between one firm
and another has been non-exist-
ent for some time, and such
conditions are likely to continue,
while the district is coping
with an unparalleled amount of
work. Upon the return to any-
thing approaching normal times
competition for business will
again be shown, and upon a
scale which is likely to be more
intense than ever before. For
during the war the smaller class
of firms have been rejuvenated
by the enormous amount of
work available. Jobs have been
undertaken and carried through
successfully. The status of the
smaller firms has increased to a
remarkably sharp extent, and
they are likely to prove formidable
competitors when normal times
arrive. However, normally can-
not be expected until at least
four years after the conclusion of
peace. The work of expeditiously
repairing vessels has this year
been of the highest national
importance. The various man-
agers of the dry docks and ship-
repairing yards have fully realised
this, and in the endeavour to give
the quickest out-turn possible
have been compelled in the
general speeding up process to
work practically seven days a
week throughout the year. They
have worked hand-in-hand with
the authorities, and it is to be
hoped that the untiring work of
the managers of the chief
yards will not go unrewarded. A
number of these could well have
retired before the war commenced,
but at the outbreak of hostilities
they saw the necessity of carrying
on in the national interest and
worked such as they never
worked before. It would be
wasteful to particularise by
detail in general the work which
has been done, much of which
was unpaid. It is not at all
improbable that this work will
be non-compensated for some
years, and it is probable that
for monetary reward, but from
high sense of duty.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

To-day's Cases at the Supreme Court.

The March Criminal Sessions opened at the Supreme Court this morning, the most interesting feature of the sitting being the charge preferred against a Chinese for the murder of Inspector O'Sullivan and Clarke, in the Green Street affair.

Retained, Banister. Wong was indicted on a charge of returning from banishment. Prisoner pleaded guilty. The Attorney-General stated that prisoner was first convicted for larceny on March 17, 1911. He was then sent to prison for three months and later banished. He returned and was banished for 20 years. He had now returned again.

Prisoner said he came here as he was going abroad. He had finished his money and was arrested by the Police.

His Lordship said that as prisoner had only returned twice, he would not pass such a severe sentence on him as he did sometimes when men had returned three times. He would go to prison for two years.

A Harbour Scene. Li Kwai and Lo Uil were indicted on a charge of assault with intent to rob and, secondly, with wounding on February 6, in the Harbour.

Prisoners pleaded not guilty. The jury were empanelled as follows: Messrs W. Forsyth, M. R. Beltrac, W. Falconer, Ford (jun.), A. A. d'Azavedo, A. O. Leith, O. A. Coburn, and L. E. Remedios.

The Attorney-General prosecuted and said that on February 6, the junk of Lo Ping with others, was lying at West Point. On board were the master, his wife, two daughters, a small son, and a foki all the people were asleep. At about 11.30 at night several men got on the boat. They were heard by the older woman, who came out of her cabin. She was immediately seized by two men, and was wounded in the leg and thigh with a knife, and had to be taken to the Hospital later. One of the men also drew a knife across her face, causing a slight cut, and pepper was thrown in her eyes. A struggle also took place between one of the robbers and the master, in the midst of which both of them fell overboard. There was a great commotion and shouts of "Save life!" Neighbours came to the rescue and the robbers got away in a boat.

The prisoners were found guilty and both sentenced to five years' hard labour and ten strokes with the "cat."

Bribery Charge. Lo Dick, a Chinese school-master, was charged with offering a bribe of \$18 to Mr. Lo Yan-pak, the Inspector of Vernacular Schools.

The same jury was empanelled. The Hon. Attorney-General prosecuted, and prisoner was undefended.

The evidence given by Mr. Yau was to the effect that he was in charge of the Regulation of Schools. Under the Education Ordinance, 1913. All schools with more than ten pupils had to be registered. He first saw the defendant in January, in Wing Lee Street, where he had gone to see if the defendant was keeping an unregistered school. Defendant admitted that he had been teaching thirty-nine pupils for the last three years. Witness considered the premises unsatisfactory and told defendant to stop teaching until satisfactory premises were found; and the school had been properly registered. Witness saw the defendant early in February, when he came to fill in the application form. In filling up the form the defendant showed some illiteracy and witness then informed him that he could not get a school registered. The next day the man came again to the office, and handed witness an envelope, containing a letter saying that defendant was making him a present of the school, and that he would be allowed to open a number of bank notes in the letter. Witness took the man to the Central Police station, and it was there found that the money totalled \$18.

SPOTTED FEVER.

Over a Hundred Cases Last Week.

During the week ended the 16th instant, there were 113 cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis notified as occurring in the Colony (which is nine more than the previous week), while the number of deaths was 33. The affected were two British, one Indian, one Portuguese, one Chinese, and the rest Chinese. Of the cases, 91 were reported from the city of Victoria.

It is intended at present to issue daily returns of the progress of the disease, in addition to the weekly statements. That for the twenty-four hours ending March 16 shows fourteen cases (ten from the city), with eleven deaths, the sufferers being all Chinese.

CANTON NEWS.

Our Canton correspondent writes as follows:—

The Special Parliament has wired to the British Minister in Peking protesting against the Central Government's availing itself of the postponed indemnity payment as a security for the National Bonds of the 7th year to the amount of \$45,000,000, and declaring that these bonds will not be recognised.

Commander Lan Ohn-luk has reported that Yua Ping district has been reoccupied, with 20 prisoners. About 100 were killed. The "Yen Po," a vernacular paper, is supposed to have inserted the news that Yang King district was captured by Lang's troops, before the official reports from the Government.

Li-tai-hon, the Civil Governor, returned to Canton from Sun Hing district on the 16th and immediately called on the Tschun, who, after the conversation, sent a number of instructions to the commanders on the western front.

The Civil Governor has again been requested by Luk Wing-tung to lead an army to attack Lang Chai-kwong.

On receiving a sum of \$100,000 from the salt revenue for expenses, the President of the Special Parliament decided to hold a general meeting on the 8th April and has sent three M. P.s to Shanghai to persuade those from the various Provinces to come to Canton before the appointed time.

Wine and Spirit Prices.

A deputation representative of the wine and spirit trade interests of the country was received at the Ministry of Food recently. The proceedings were conducted in private, but it is understood that the question of fixing prices for wine and spirits in both the wholesale and retail trade was discussed.

Two Years in Hiding.

An extraordinary story of an endeavour to evade military service was told at South Shields recently in the case of Charles Edward Millier, aged 27, a joiner. The evidence was that for over two years he has been hidden in a small front room, which he had never left during the whole of that time. His parents, who were charged with aiding, pleaded that he was not strong enough to join the Army. The young man was handed over to the military authorities and his parents were each fined.

Defendant stated that he only gave the money as a present, and had no idea of influencing Mr. Lo Yan-pak in his duties.

Complainant stated that he did not know the defendant personally, and saw, as reason why he should have made him a present. The jury found the accused guilty with a strong recommendation for the mercy of the Court. His Lordship said he was anxious to avoid sending the accused to prison at all, for he did not believe that the accused was committing a serious offence. He imposed a fine of \$50, or one month's hard labour.

RIFLE SHOOTING.

The Navy v. H. K. Defence Corps.

The first Rifle League match of the season took place at King's Park Range on Saturday between the above teams, when the Navy won by 17 points. The poor shooting at the 500 yards range was due to the extremely "mirage." It should be pointed out that this season there are three teams drawn from the Defence Corps—the Civil Service, Tailors and a composite team. The scores in Saturday's match were:—

	Navy.			
	200	500	600	
	yds.	yds.	yds.	
P. O. McIlindal	30	32	27	89
Mr. Sears	28	28	30	86
L. S. Fleming	30	29	26	85
Mr. Bliss	22	31	31	84
L. S. Murray	29	24	31	84
W. O. Carruthers	28	27	29	84
P. O. Losh	28	27	27	82
C. P. O. Crane	27	27	25	79
	222	225	228	675
Plus allowance for open nights				13
				688

H. K. D. C.

Pte. A. Jenkins	34	31	33	98
Sgt. M. Manak	30	28	33	91
Sgt. M. D. Toller	28	31	29	88
C. M. F. Goodman	27	31	29	87
Sgt. G. H. M.	27	22	31	80
Blighman	27	22	31	80
Sgt. A. Leach	26	25	29	80
Pte. D. Keith	25	29	25	79
Pte. W. Anderson	25	18	20	63
son	28	18	20	66
	225	215	229	669

POLICE RESERVE ITEMS.

The Police Reserve Gazette for March is well up to standard and contains some excellent light reading. There is also a competition in which two War Bond Drawing tickets are offered as prizes. We take the following interesting items from the Gazette:—

Chief Inspector Farebrother Mason has passed his examination and obtained a Commission in the Machine Gun Corps (Cavalry). He is hoping to be sent either to France or Mesopotamia. P. O. 90 Carpenter has been granted a Commission in the 3rd Battalion East Surrey Regiment, and Lieut. 88 McNeil Wilson has been made 2nd Lieutenant in the R.G.A. Both are well-known members of the Hongkong Regular Police.

Race owners have presented notices to the Mounted Section of the Corps. The donors are as follows:—Messrs. Scores and Moller, five; Sir Ellis Kadorio, three; Mr. F. Maitland, one; Mr. R. M. Dyer, one; the Sergeant Superintendent, H.K.P.R., one; Mr. H. M. H. Nemesse, one.

In regard to the Green Street Fund, we read that the Official Trustee of the Colony has been appointed Trustee of the Fund, by which suitable arrangements have been made in the interests of the dependents of the late Inspector Martin O'Sullivan, Sergeant H. G. Clark, and Acting Lance Sergeant Johnstone, and also for cash payments to relatives of P. O. 410 Mulls Singh, P. O. 29 Kwong Sang, and P. O. 98 Kwong Kai. The administration of the Fund was taken in hand by the following gentlemen:—The Hon. Mr. P. H. Holyoak, the Hon. Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., and Hon. Mr. G. M. Messer, U.S.P., together with Mr. E. C. Jenkins, D.S.P. (Ret.), Mr. S. J. Chinohat (Chief Inspector, Reserve), Mr. Eldon Pater (Staff Inspector, Reserve), and Mr. Alan Balsam (Sergeant, Assistant, Reserve), as Honorary Treasurer. The total amount raised by the Police Reserve was \$15,632, which included about a very fine contribution from members of the Hongkong Club. Mr. H. V. Looker kindly offered to undertake all legal matters in connection with the administration of the Fund, without making any professional charge, and was reported that the shed was moving.

RACECOURSE DISASTER.

Further Evidence Heard To-day.

The enquiry into the sad catastrophe which occurred at the Racecourse, Happy Valley, on February 26, was continued at the Police Court this morning, being conducted by Mr. J. B. Wood, acting as Coroner. The following jurymen were also present:—Messrs. A. H. Barlow (foreman), J. H. Wallace, and W. C. Jack.

Mr. Hall again represented Mr. M. K. Lo on behalf of a number of Chinese who lost relatives in the disaster; Mr. F. B. L. Bowley represented the contractor, Tse Hock, who built the stands; Mr. D. V. Stearns appeared for the lessees of the Unity Stand. Mr. G. H. Wakeman, Crown Solicitor, was also present.

The assistant head coolie of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, stated that he was in Shed No. 12 at the time of the collapse. He was selling tickets on the first floor. He was buried in the collapse, but managed to get out through the roof. He heard no commotion before the collapse, but people stamped just as the collapse commenced. The sheds fell towards the Golf Club. About a minute after he got out he saw fire in the direction of Shed No. 10. There no stoves in his shed.

An aged Chinese, who is a letter writer in the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, said he was in Shed No. 12 at the time of the collapse. He saw no stoves there. There was a commotion first and then the sheds collapsed. He was on the top floor, and there were only about sixty or seventy people on that floor. He managed to crawl through a hole and out on the Golf Club side, but he had to be given assistance, and taken home, because he hurt his shoulder. It was only after he got out that he saw fire. Several foks in the shed lost their lives, but he had heard that nobody on the top floor was killed. He could not tell the cause of the collapse. Most of the people at the time were looking at the horses, and were therefore in the front of the stand. It took him about ten minutes to get out.

A crowd of Messrs. Bradley & Co., a shareholder in Shed No. 13 said there were thirty-four shareholders owning eighty odd shares. The shed had two floors. He had held it about five or six years, and the shed was built in the same pattern as last year. The first floor was used for betting. There were no fires of any kind. Any person could go in the shed, but an Indian watchman was always on duty. He was on the first floor at the time of the collapse. Witness went on to state what took place, saying that he was pinned down, but was afterwards rescued in an unconscious state. He heard no cries of fire before the collapse. Nine of his partners in the shed died.

By Mr. Bowley: One of his partners inspected the shed before it was used. There were no buckets of water kept there, no lights were installed. The proprietors of Messrs. J. D. Hutchison and Company, a partner in Shed No. 14, stated that there were seven partners. He examined the shed before the Races, and it seemed very much the same as last year. The upright poles were resting on boards, and had done so for two or three years. No cooking or boiling of water was done. The shed had two-and-a-half floors. Nothing happened before the collapse, but the shed appeared to be safe. On the first day he did hear some people say that they thought the shed was moving. The people were buying tickets at the time. It was only said that once, and the time would be between half past two and three o'clock. He noticed nothing himself. Witness proceeded to describe his experiences at the time of the collapse, telling of how he was pinned down, and how he later crawled out. There were over a hundred people in his shed at the time.

By Mr. Bowley: Anybody could go in the shed. When the visitors on the Monday afternoon reported that the shed was moving

TO-DAY'S MISCELLANY.

If anyone is inclined to come

By Mr. Bowley:—On Monday or Tuesday morning he did not notice any moving of the shed. There were some openings in the top floor through which tickets were sold by means of pulley baskets. There were no lamps in the shed.

After evidence by another Chinese, Mr. F. Graham, Manager of the Hongkong Electric Light Company, said he had applications from some of the booths to supply electric current and fittings this year. Current was supplied to No. 8, 10, 11 and 12. This was the same as last year. In booths No. 4, 5 and 6 there were six lights, in No. 10 six lights, in No. 11 eighteen lights and in No. 12 eighteen lights. The fittings in the other shed were put up with his permission. He had meters fixed at all the places where current was supplied. Most of these were inspected by the company's inspectors, who reported that they were all right. A double-holed fuse was put in with the meters, which would afford protection in case of firing. That was the regular provision.

Mr. Wakeman:—Was there any possibility of the wire fusing in case of a collapse?—I don't quite understand that. What was meant by wires fusing, he did not know. In his opinion, the sheds were in no danger of fire from the electric fittings in the event of a collapse. The meters were fixed usually as near to where the wires entered the sheds as possible. There were wires entering the sheds from the Golf Club. The connection was made between these meters, and the main was outside the Golf Club House. It was possible but not probable that the pressure of 100 volts might be a source of danger in the event of a collapse. It was possible that the light might come on and go off during the collapse, caused, possibly by something knocking against the switch or pull-out of the switch. Electric current was first supplied to some of these sheds in 1911. He had never heard of anything being out of order for the whole of the period current had been supplied. He had never considered the possibility of a collapse of the stands affecting the electric light.

By Mr. Bowley:—Four of the foks were arrested during the morning by the police for running a "wheel of fortune" on horses.

By His Worship:—There was no panic when the Police made the arrest.

A Japanese storekeeper, of Queen's Road East, said he helped to manage Shed No. 15. The principal manager died in the calamity. Witness had helped for six or seven years, and the shed was almost the same as last year.

By Mr. Bowley:—He bought the site at the auction and thought he paid \$1,280. He visited the stand on the Sunday before the collapse, but could not say whether it had been built according to instructions. He did not examine the stands. The manager was there, and he did not hear any complaints from him about the construction. He did not feel any movement of the stand on the first day. Immediately before the collapse he heard someone say, "there was a danger," "Sweep, Sweep," were said on the top floor. He had carried on such work as a booth there every year, the proceeds being in aid of the Japanese Benevolent Society. At the time he thought it was an earthquake, but he did not think so now. He tried to effect a rescue from the racecourse side. When he noticed the fire it was some distance from his booth. There was only a small blaze, but smoke was going very high. The people in his shed were burnt because they had not been rescued. Only ten or fifteen minutes elapsed before the fire reached his booth. There were two tubes of water in the shed, used for washing and drinking. He was working all the time on the Racecourse side.

Lo Yuk-nan, an accountant in the Tung Ting Restaurant, said he had a share in the Yan Shue-shed, No. 10. There were five partners, each with eleven shares. There were three floors, including the ground floor. The shed was built according to their instructions, and it was examined before the meeting. There was no cooking done in the shed. Anyone could enter the shed. Betting was done in the booth. Witness was on the ground floor, used for the selling of tickets. There was one entrance to the shed, on the ground floor, from the Golf Club side. At that time of the collapse he would say there were about 300 people in the shed. It was not very full—70 to 80 per cent full. He heard people say, "A collapse, run, run!" He tried to run but he could not get away. The building cracked and he was pinned down behind the counter, which prevented other debris falling on him. He made a hole in the shed and got out on the Racecourse side. He then saw fire from sheds 13 and 14. He went home with his family, but he was not

He could not say what the cause of the collapse was.

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Lo Yuk-nan, an accountant in the Tung Ting Restaurant, said he had a share in the Yan Shue-shed, No. 10. There were five partners, each with eleven shares. There were three floors, including the ground floor. The shed was built according to their instructions, and it was examined before the meeting. There was no cooking done in the shed. Anyone could enter the shed. Betting was done in the booth. Witness was on the ground floor, used for the selling of tickets. There was one entrance to the shed, on the ground floor, from the Golf Club side. At that time of the collapse he would say there were about 300 people in the shed. It was not very full—70 to 80 per cent full. He heard people say, "A collapse, run, run!" He tried to run but he could not get away. The building cracked and he was pinned down behind the counter, which prevented other debris falling on him. He made a hole in the shed and got out on the Racecourse side. He then saw fire from sheds 13 and 14. He went home with his family, but he was not

He could not say what the cause of the collapse was.

By Mr. Bowley:—On Monday or Tuesday morning he did not notice any moving of the shed. There were some openings in the top floor through which tickets were sold by means of pulley baskets. There were no lamps in the shed.

After evidence by another Chinese, Mr. F. Graham, Manager of the Hongkong Electric Light Company, said he had applications from some of the booths to supply electric current and fittings this year. Current was supplied to No. 8, 10, 11 and 12. This was the same as last year. In booths No. 4, 5 and 6 there were six lights, in No. 10 six lights, in No. 11 eighteen lights and in No. 12 eighteen lights. The fittings in the other shed were put up with his permission. He had meters fixed at all the places where current was supplied. Most of these were inspected by the company's inspectors, who reported that they were all right. A double-holed fuse was put in with the meters, which would afford protection in case of firing. That was the regular provision.

TO-DAY'S MISCELLANY.

If anyone is inclined to come

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Mr. Wakeman:—Was there any possibility of the wire fusing in case of a collapse?—I don't quite understand that. What was meant by wires fusing, he did not know. In his opinion, the sheds were in no danger of fire from the electric fittings in the event of a collapse. The meters were fixed usually as near to where the wires entered the sheds as possible. There were wires entering the sheds from the Golf Club. The connection was made between these meters, and the main was outside the Golf Club House. It was possible but not probable that the pressure of 100 volts might be a source of danger in the event of a collapse. It was possible that the light might come on and go off during the collapse, caused, possibly by something knocking against the switch or pull-out of the switch. Electric current was first supplied to some of these sheds in 1911. He had never heard of anything being out of order for the whole of the period current had been supplied. He had never considered the possibility of a collapse of the stands affecting the electric light.

By Mr. Bowley:—Four of the foks were arrested during the morning by the police for running a "wheel of fortune" on horses.

By His Worship:—There was no panic when the Police made the arrest.

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